

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Soviet Military Mission in Albania

REPORT

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REFERENCES

This is UNEVALUATED
Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. There are no Soviet units or troops as such in Albania.
2. Soviet instructors are attached to the Army General Command and work with the Chief of Staff and with Directorates. In the Military Intelligence Directorate, for example, there are three. They work only with the chiefs and have no dealings with any officers in the lower echelons. The Quartermaster General Directorate has a larger number, who probably work with Chiefs of Branches.
3. Nothing is known of the Russians' own administrative arrangements. There appears to be no separate Military Mission but all Soviet affairs are controlled from the Embassy.¹
4. About 1952, an unidentified Soviet General arrived at Tirana to take charge of military affairs. He was reputed to be a friend of General M. Shehu. The former Soviet Ambassador, however, had had much sympathy for Hoxha.
5. The names of the Soviet officers are never mentioned and are unknown to anyone except the Chiefs. Most of the instructors are of the rank of Major and above.
6. The instructors' orders are always carried out, and the answer to any criticism from a lower staff officer of a new order, is that "the Russians want it so."
7. Soviet instructors are also attached to Division Headquarters and to Independent Brigades, but not to Regiments.
8. The instructors at Division Headquarters make frequent inspection of units, accompanied by the Albanian Staff Officers. Twice yearly inspecting teams from the General Command tour the country, accompanied by Soviet instructors.

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- 2 -

9. No Soviet instructors had been replaced by Bulgarian instructors up to 1952, and there are no Bulgarian advisers at the government level. The only Bulgarians are doctors and engineers. There are three Bulgarian doctors in the Tirana Civil Hospital on temporary duty. It is unlikely that Bulgarian instructors would replace Russians for two reasons:

- a. The Soviet Union controls the Albanian governmental function through their instructors.
- b. The Albanians would not favor Bulgarian supervision.

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